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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lawrence W. Yonge III

: 2663 Art Unit

Serial No.:

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Examiner: J. Kwoh

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Title

: METHOD AND PROTOCOL TO SUPPORT CONTENTION-FREE

INTERVALS AND QOS IN A CSMA NETWORK

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed July 3, 2002, please amend the application as follows: In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- During a data transmit process, data and control information are received at the PHYto-MAC interface (MAC interface) 74 over the PHY-to-MAC bus 24. The MAC interface provides the data to the scrambler 32, which ensures that the data as presented to the input of the data FEC encoder 34 are substantially random in pattern. The data FEC encoder 34 encodes the scrambled data pattern in a forward error correction code and subsequently interleaves the encoded data. Any forward error correction code, for example, a Reed-Solomon, or both a Reed-Solomon code and a convolution code, can be used for this purpose. The modulator 36 reads the FEC encoded data and FEC encoded control information from the frame control FEC encoder 38, and modulates the encoded data and control information onto carriers in OFDM symbols in accordance with conventional OFDM modulation techniques. Those modulation techniques may be coherent or differential. The modulation mode or type may be Binary Phase Shift Keying with 1/2 rate coding ("1/2 BPSK"), Quadrature Phase Shift Keying with 1/2 rate coding ("1/2

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